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Miller building police training center

Building to house instruction for police and Corrections

By **Pat Reavy**

Deseret Morning News

He's built car dealerships, movie theaters and the Delta Center. Now, Larry H. Miller wants to lend a hand to Utah law enforcement.

A groundbreaking ceremony was held Monday at Salt Lake Community College's Miller Campus, 9750 S. 300 West, for the new Miller Public Safety Training Center.

When completed, the building will consolidate Peace Officers Standard and Training (POST) and the Utah Department of Corrections training academy into one brand new state-of-the-art facility.

The new building is expected to cost approximately \$21 million, a tab that is being picked up entirely by Miller.

"You know this guy, but today we honor this guy," Corrections executive director Scott Carver said during Monday's ceremony, which was both a groundbreaking and a chance to thank Miller.

Miller said this was the first time he had been able to do something for the Department of Public Safety and he was more than happy to help.

"I view myself as an assembler and disseminator of resources," he said. "I view it as an opportunity to give back to the community."

Miller said this was his way of saying "thank you" to law enforcers who most times don't get thanked enough for the jobs they do.

"They literally put their lives on the line every day on our behalf," Carver said. "The training they receive early in their careers is so critical to that."

The three-story, 73,221-square-foot training facility will include a modern indoor firearms training center, fitness center, mock dispatch center, simulated jail cell, intoxilyzer training room, filming studio, large classrooms and office areas.

"Effective policing begins in the classroom," said Utah Attorney General Mark Shurtleff.

The more Miller investigated the new building issue, "I came to understand this was a real need, not a fairy-tale wish list."

The current POST facility near 4500 South and 2700 West is in need of repair and the state has



Utah Jazz and Salt Lake Stingers owner Larry Miller speaks during the groundbreaking for Salt Lake Community College's Miller Campus.

Tyler Sipe, Deseret Morning News

outgrown it, said DPS deputy director Dan Fallows.

With the new Miller building, Fallows said the state will be able to follow a mandate from legislators to combine the Corrections and Public Safety training programs and save taxpayers money.

Furthermore, because of a recent rash of retirements, POST director Rich Townsend said he is training a record number of people this year. There are normally an average of five training sessions per year at POST. But this year POST will be hosting seven or eight training sessions to keep up with the demand for officers, he said.

Each training session costs between \$150,000 and \$200,000, Townsend said.

Although Miller said he liked to construct buildings in 90 days, this one may take about a year. But he said he would be pushing construction workers to get it done as quickly as possible.

In addition to the training center there are plans to build at least two other buildings, including a dormitory for cadets, which will eventually occupy more than 152,000 square feet.

The new Miller Training facility will also be home to SLCC's culinary arts program and the food services department.

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